

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A photolithographic reduction projection catadioptric objective with a beam path, comprising: a first optical group (G1) including an even number of at least ~~four~~ six mirrors (M1-M6); and a second at least substantially dioptric optical group (G2) more imageward than said first optical group including a number of lenses (E4-E13), and wherein said first optical group (G1) provides compensative axial colour correction for said second optical group (G2), wherein the virtual image is formed physically behind a sixth mirror (M6).
2. (Original) The objective of Claim 1, wherein said image is formed with a numerical aperture of at least substantially 0.65.
3. (Original) The objective of Claim 1, said first optical group producing an intermediate virtual image (VF).
4. (Original) The objective of Claim 1, wherein said at least four mirrors (M1-M6) of said first optical group (G1) include a convex mirror (M6) arranged most imageward in the beam path of the objective, and wherein said second optical group (G2) receives a beam from said convex mirror (M6).
5. (Original) The objective of Claim 1, wherein optical surfaces of each mirror M1-M6 of said objective are at least sections of surfaces of revolution each having a common axis (A) of symmetry.
6. (Original) The objective of Claim 1, wherein said second optical group is configured for independent compensative lateral aberrative correction.
7. (Currently Amended) A photolithographic reduction projection catadioptric objective, comprising: a first optical group (G1) including an







